



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: B-0  
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March 2, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe  
Director of Public Works

### **ILLEGAL GRADING CODE AMENDMENTS AND POLICY CHANGES BOARD MOTION OF JANUARY 31, 2006, AGENDA ITEM 70-A**

In response to the above motion, the following is an interim report on the status of Public Works' joint efforts with the Department of Regional Planning and County Counsel to develop recommendations for code amendments and policy changes to the County's land grading permit procedure. The intent of the recommendations is to identify additional enforcement mechanisms to deter property owners from conducting grading activities without a permit.

Currently, Public Works and County Counsel are working to develop guidelines, policies, and procedures to levy administrative fines and noncompliance fees for code violations. County Counsel is also investigating the viability of assessing and increasing civil penalties in addition to the administrative fees. As part of this effort, Public Works is reviewing the policies, protocols, and ordinances that have been successfully adopted and implemented by other municipalities.

The Department of Regional Planning is researching the appropriateness and feasibility of reducing the current grading threshold for imposing the zoning conditional use permit requirement specified in the Zoning Ordinance. Regional Planning's preliminary findings indicate that the County's General Plan policies support the regulation of any proposed significant modification of natural landforms.

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Public Works is also reviewing the language of the existing Building and Grading Code to identify potential changes and revisions that will provide additional deterrents to illegal grading.

We anticipate completing our investigation and submitting our findings and recommendations to your Board by April 6, 2006.

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
Department of Regional Planning  
Executive Office ✓